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Model Organic Village (MOV)

Model Organic Village Definition:

Model Organic Village is a landscape where the farming community voluntarily practice and follow organic farming principles for sustainable production, consumption and management of local natural resources and environment.

1.0 Features of Model Organic Village

A village may be termed as a Model Organic Village if the village fulfills the following conditions:

i. The farmers in the village understand and apply the principles of organic farming and voluntarily pledge to practice it.
ii. All the farmers of the village register as Organic farmers with the National Center for Organic Agriculture (NCOA).
iii. Farmers of the village adopt organic technologies and adhere to the Bhutan Organic Standards (BOS).
iv. The village is inspected and certified as organic either under the Local Organic Assurance Systems (LOAS) or any other recognized Third-Party Certification System.
v. The village acts as a demonstration hub to demonstrate actions and evidences for others to understand, learn and practice organic farming.
vi. The farmers of the village aspire and work towards being socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable through locally owned participatory process.
vii. The village should be in close-knit and lives in harmony with nature and respect each other's equity and equality.

2.0 Key Indicators of Model Organic Village

i. Proof of the farmers of the village registered with NCOA.
ii. Proof of LOAS or Third-Party Organic Certification awarded to the farmers of the village.
iii. Proper record keeping of the input used and the farm activities in the organic farm diary.
iv. The village produces certified organic commodities.
v. Adopt and exhibit required organic technologies that are promising and desirable.
vi. The village presents a proof or indicators of a sustainable production system such as resource recycling, farming diversity, crop rotation, fertility management etc.
vii. The MOV has evidence on demonstration and promotion of nature-based solution packages.
viii. Proof or record of people from other communities/regions/countries visiting the Model Organic Village.
ix. Evidences of community developing a community knowledge and learning center that also promotes the cultural heritage of the local community.
x. No record of any type of crisis in the community vis-à-vis organic operations.

3.0 Key intervention to be promoted in Model Organic Village

i. Develop resource mapping of the village and integrated participatory local natural resource management plans.
ii. Promote traditional crops and varieties with adequate seed selections.
iii. Promote nutrition garden with crop diversity.
iv. Promote on-farm diversity.
v. Promotion and demonstration of different types of feasible multiple cropping practices.
vi. Plan crop rotations with intentional inclusion of a feasible legume.
vii. Support and promote improved organic manure (e.g., Farm Yard Manure, vermi-compost, bio-char, bio-digester, EM, etc.) production at household or village level.
viii. Promotion of bio-pesticides and bio-control agents for pest management in crops.
ix. Promotion of climate smart technologies such as mulching, trap crops, agro-forestry, smart irrigation technologies, minimum tillage, cover crops and soil moisture conservation technologies.
x. Promote integrated farming with livestock as one of the key components.
xi. Promote bee keeping to enhance crop pollination and income generation.
xii. Promote existing traditional knowledge in the community.
xiii. Support and promote agro- tourism and traditional foods.
xiv. On-farm demonstration and adaptation of new OA technologies.
xv. Evidences of the conservation of local resources of the community.
xvi. Training of Trainers (TOT) on organic farming in the community for the key people to guide other members.
xvii. Put in place a voluntary Internal Control System (ICS) to monitor and regulate compliance to agree organic standards.